

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 177400  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP  
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S E C R E T STATE 177400

NODIS  
FOR AMB LEONARD FROM UNA

FOL RPT TEL AVIV 8870 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BEIRUT DAMASCUS  
WHITE HOUSE 13 JUL 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 8870

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, IS, LE  
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO ISRAELIS ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO LEBANESE  
CHRISTIANS

REF: STATE 176237

1. INASMUCH AS MINISTER WEIZMAN DEPARTED FOR AUSTRIA EARLIER  
TODAY I HAD COL WILLIAMS (ARMA) CONVEY THE INSTRUCTIONS  
OF REFTEL TO DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, GENERAL GAZIT  
LATE THIS AFTERNOON (JULY 13).

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2. WILLIAMS READ THE POINTS OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF REFTEL TO  
GAZIT, WHO ACCEPTED THEM BY STATING HE WOULD  
IMMEDIATELY CONVEY THEM TO APPROPRIATE SUPERIORS. HE SAID  
HE COULD NOT OFFICIALLY RESPOND ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT  
AT THIS TIME TO ALL THE POINTS BUT COULD AND WOULD GIVE  
AN IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE ASSURANCE THAT NO WEAPONS

OR AMMUNITION OF US ORIGIN ARE BEING DELIVERED TO THE CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON, NORTH OR SOUTH, BY THE GOI.

3. GAZIT THEN GAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS, QUALIFYING THEM AS BEING "PERSONAL REMARKS AT PRESENT." HE SAID THAT THE REPORTS OF MAJOR DELIVERIES WHICH WE REFERRED TO IN REFTEL ARE "TREMENDOUSLY EXAGGERATED." HE SAID THAT THE ACTUAL DELIVERIES, PRIMARILY AMMUNITION, ARE "MUCH, MUCH BELOW THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT NO OTHER SOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE CHRISTIANS." HE SAID THAT THE CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN "SHOOTING LIKE CRAZY" WITH HIGH EXPENDITURES AND THAT HE BELIEVES THE RESUPPLY IS WELL BELOW ANY BOUNDS WHICH MIGHT BE ARRIVED AT.

4. GAZIT INDICATED THAT THE SITUATION IN BEIRUT REMAINS RELATIVELY CALM TODAY ALTHOUGH IT MAY BLOW UP AT ANY MINUTE. HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO A SHORT LECTURE, THE THEME BEING THAT ONE CANNOT TALK ONLY ABOUT RESUPPLY TO CHRISTIANS WHEN THE CHRISTIANS SEE A HUNDRED ADDITIONAL ARTILLERY PIECES, TWO COMMANDO BATTALIONS, MECHANIZED BATTALIONS, ETC. REINFORCING THE SYRIANS. "ARE THE CHRISTIANS SIMPLY TO SURRENDER AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE END OF THE CRUSADER PERIOD SOME 900 YEARS AFTER ITS ADVENT" WILLIAMS ASSURED GAZIT THAT THE USG IS DOING ALL IT CAN IN MANY CAPITALS AROUND THE WORLD IN ORDER TO ATTEMPT  
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TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION AND MAINTAIN THE CEASEFIRE AND THAT THIS MEETING TODAY WAS JUST ONE OF SUCH ATTEMPTS.

5. GAZIT RIDICULED THE IDEA OF SUPPLY OF TANKS TO THE LEBANESE CHRISTIANS AND INDICATED THAT ONE OF THE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS THE IDF IS HAVING IN SUPPLYING THE CHRISTIANS IS THE NON-US ORIGIN RULE. HE PROMISED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESPONSES AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

6. IN PARALLEL DEMARCHE DCM PHONED EVRON AND REVIEWED POINTS CONTAINED PARA 3 REFTEL. EVRON SAID HE HAD RECEIVED BAR-ON'S REPORT OF CONVERSATION WITH VELIOTES AND THAT HE INTENDED TO DISCUSS IT LATER TODAY WITH DAYAN. HE NOTED THAT BAR-ON'S REPORT HAD NOT RAISED ISSUE OF WHETHER GOI HAD RECENTLY TRANSFERRED ANY US-ORIGIN WEAPONS TO LEBANON. DCM REITERATED OUR NEED FOR CONFIRMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THAT SUCH TRANSFERS HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE. EVRON ASKED IF THIS WAS A FORMAL REQUEST FROM WASHINGTON. DCM SAID IT WAS.

7. TO UNDERSCORE OUR CONCERN I ALSO TELEPHONED

PRIME MINISTER BEGIN EARLY THIS EVENING TO EMPHASIZE  
OUR CONVICTION THAT IT WOULD BE SERIOUS MISTAKE FOR  
ISRAEL TO PROVIDE CHRISTIANS WITH EAVY EQUIPMENT  
SUCH AS TANKS, ROCKETS, ETC. WHICH COULD ENCOURAGE  
IRRATIONAL MILITANT CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS TO PROVOKE  
SYRIANS. I SAID I PLANNED TO SPEAK TO WEIZMAN IN  
MORE DETAIL AS SOON AS HE RETURNED. BEGIN SAID HE  
UNDERSTOOD COMPLETELY AND SHARED OUR VIEW ON THIS  
POINT. SAID HE WOULD SPEAK FURTHER TOMORROW MORNING  
TO CHIEF OF STAFF ABOUT THE QUESTION AND WOULD BE  
IN TOUCH WITH DURING THE DAY ON FRIDAY. HE  
VOLUNTEERED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD GIVEN FIRM  
INSTRUCTIONS TO THE IDF TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT NO  
WEAPONS WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE CHRISTIANS "WHICH  
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WOULD GIVE THE U.S. TROUBLE," BY WHICH HE WAS  
ACKNOWLEDGING THE RESTRICTION ON TRANSFER OF U.S.  
ORIGIN WEAPONS.  
LEWIS

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** REPEAT TEL AVIV 8870  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** MASS, IS, LE, US  
**To:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
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